

Latke Luau Hits San Francisco

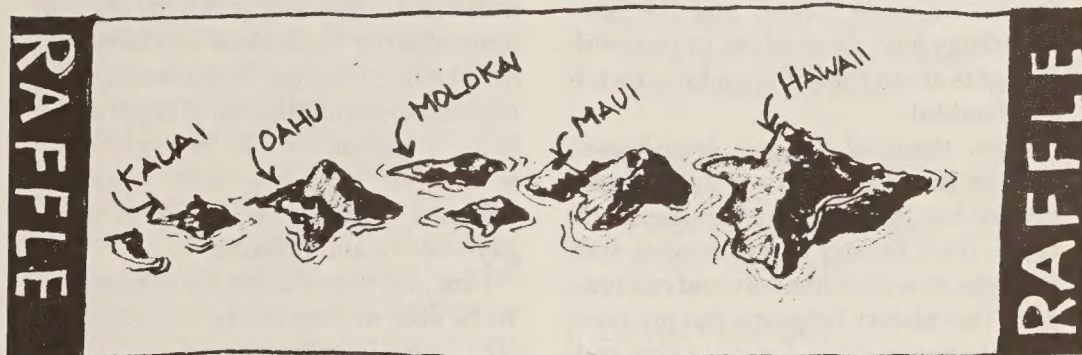
In order to bring a bit of last summer's heat into the cool December air, we are proud to announce this year's Chanukah event—Latke Luau. Here's your opportunity to don (Ho) your favorite Hawaiian costume and hula down to the Unitarian Center (Franklin at Geary) on Sunday, December 11, between 2 and 6 pm for an afternoon of dancing, schmoozing, eating (what else is new?) and other festive activities. As in previous years, there will be a special children's program, but we encourage members of all ages to attend what is always one of the social highlights of the synagogue year.

We are very excited about the grand prize in this year's Chanukah raffle, a trip for two to Hawaii. Enclosed with this month's newsletter are raffle books. Please sell the enclosed books (call the synagogue office for additional books). Raffles cost \$2 each or 12 for \$20. Stubs and checks can be mailed into the office or brought to Friday night services. The Chanukah raffle represents our largest fundraiser of the calendar year, and we hope that everyone will do their part in selling their share. The Hawaii trip as the grand prize will make selling the tickets this year a snap!

Mark your calendars now for this fun-filled afternoon and be sure to invite your friends and family to come along. Children will be admitted at no charge; \$5 per member and \$7 per non-member.

We do need volunteers to help us produce this year's luau. If you are interested please call Allyce Kimerling at 282-6599.

So, start shopping for those festive Hawaiian accessories, polish your menorahs, retwine your leis and get ready for a new Chanukah tradition of latkes with pineapple at Latke Luau!



Chanukah Silent Auction

For several years a feature of our annual Chanukah party has been a silent auction. Members and friends donate services or merchandise, and during the party, anyone can write a bid for these items. All bids are posted and the last (highest) bidder wins.

We need auction items—you can offer dinner for two at your home, a foot rub or maybe a haircut. If you have a business skill, that too can be a prize—a legal consultation, insurance evaluation, color plan for your home, a resume, etc. People donate works of art, tickets to cultural events, gift certificates, and other merchandise. Merchandise does not need to be new. (However, the Auction Committee will review and accept only suitable antiques or previously owned items.)

Don't forget that your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you would like to donate to the Annual Chanukah Silent Auction, please contact the office or Don Albert (641-5113).

The forum on religion and politics, originally scheduled for Saturday, November 5, has been postponed until the spring.

Social Action Committee

Proposition 102 Threat!

Proposition 102, if passed, will do away with California's highly successful anonymous AIDS testing program, driving underground many who are in need of AIDS education and prevention, medical care and opportunities to participate in research studies. The initiative would require doctors to report even those suspected of having the AIDS virus and specifically enables insurance companies and employers to use this information to discriminate against such individuals.

The proposition is strongly opposed by medical authorities, the California Medical Association and California Nurses Association. In addition, the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council, the American Jewish Congress and Rabbi Leonard Thal (UAHC), have expressed their opposition to the bill, which experts estimate will cost California taxpayers \$1.7 billion.

As Jews, we should be ever alert to the threat to human rights, life and dignity which occurs when some in society try to use fear and ignorance to scapegoat one group for their own political ends. Proposition 102 represents such an attempt.

—Jonathan Mesinger

A Thanksgiving Message

I write this sitting atop a hill at Camp Shalom in Malibu, the site of the Second Western Regional Conference of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, this weekend of October 7-9. It's early in the morning, only a few people at the conference are awake, it's quite serene, and the surroundings lend themselves to peaceful thoughts about those things for which I am thankful.

I am thankful for my Jewishness. Being a Jew links me to people whose history has been told for thousands of years. It's a history of oppression and struggle, as well as freedom and celebration. This history helps me put my own life into perspective: Are my pains and sufferings as severe as those of Jews of the past? When my answer is "no," my link to Jews of the past helps me realize that my own circumstances are usually not so bad, and that in due time, I will be feeling better. I find this comforting, and it helps ease the pain. When "yes," I look to see how Jews of the past lived with pain and suffering and I find lessons, strengths and words of comfort and healing.

Judaism is not only about pain and suffering. The celebrations of Jews past and present, both recorded in history and created anew by us daily, serve as a reminder of the joy in the world and the joy of living. For me, being a Jew means to enjoy what has been put on the earth and to not feel guilty about enjoying it. A major component of this joy is celebrating *mitzvot*. What have I done that makes me feel good or makes me proud? Often, my joy—and my pride as a Jew—is felt through *tzedakah*. I celebrate my own good fortune by giving, so that those less lucky than I may celebrate as well.

I am also thankful for my gayness. I believe being a lesbian is an opportunity to experience the world each day with a fresh set of eyes or ears. Each time I see or hear something, I believe I am seeing or hearing it not quite in the way it was meant to be seen or heard. That gives new meaning to whatever I am looking at or listening to. After all, few media stars, ad agencies, bank tellers, fast-food workers, book sellers, etc. go about their lives assuming their audience or cus-

tomers to be lesbian or gay. Thus, rarely do they say to me what they, in fact, think they are saying to me.

I suspect that this kind of "outsiderness" would frustrate at best, and anger at worst, many lesbians and gay men, and I have to admit that I can get frustrated and angry over it. But the key is in remembering to celebrate and be thankful for being a lesbian. In that way, I don't respond to something out of anger about being presumed to be non-gay; that would be offensive and negative. Rather, I react out of my joy in being gay—active and positive.

I am also thankful for my synagogue. To be able to worship in a community where my Jewishness and gayness fit together like the last two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle makes my life fairly complete. I don't have to choose and I don't have to prioritize. I draw on the history of Jews past and I look at that history with my fresh eyes and ears. I can reject others' interpretations of Judaism, which usually omitted women and always omitted gay people. Instead, I can draw strength from the principles articulated and from the community of people supporting these new interpretations.

Happy Thanksgiving.

—Robin Leonard

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Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Stephanie Hannaford, and Leonard Brill (general editorial and production), Amy Blasenheim (photos), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

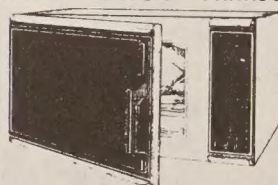
Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

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A High Holiday Thank-You

Many people helped with the ritual aspects of bringing in the year 5749. Every year, this list grows longer and longer as more members volunteer. Thank you to the members of the Ritual Committee who, as usual, worked extra hard this season: Leslie Bergson, Tiela Chalmers, Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Funk, Richard Inlander, Henry Mach, Jose Luis Moscovich, Mike Rankin, Bill Schlichter, Nancy Snow, David Stein and Dana Vinicoff.

Thank you also to the people who performed extra tasks such as inventorying and repairing *machzorim* (High Holiday prayerbooks), cleaning ritual objects, and constructing and dismantling the sukkot: Dennis Bates, Jennifer Dahlstrom, Rena Frantz, Ron Lezell, Ken Neff, Steve Neff, Nathan Robinson, Susan Stahl and Peter Vishniac.

The choral pieces during services required many hours of rehearsing from a number of dedicated, talented individuals. Thank you to members of our Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble and Quartet: Mantra Ben Ya'akov, Leslie Bergson, Beth Berkelhammer, Rick Crane, Steve Elman, Jonathan Funk, Jerry Hipps, Debi Jacobs, Ed Leven, Kipp Leyser, Jonathan Mesinger, Eve Meyer, Nancy Snow, Steve Weitz and especially, Dana Vinicoff.

Gratitude also goes to people who prepared and took part in particular aspects of our services. Thank you to our Torah and Haftorah chanters: Leslie Bergson, Daniel Chesir, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Scott Mezistrano, Terry Rothchild Rose, Ben Schalit, Judith Schwartz and Nancy Snow; to our lay sermonizers: Richard Inlander, Susan Unger, and Henry Mach (Second Day Rosh Hashanah); and to our shofar blowers who covered from the beginning of Elul through Neilah: Don Albert, Jason Dahlstrom, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Ron Lezell, Leila Raim, David Stein and Dana Vinicoff.

Much appreciation goes once again to Randy Schiller of Randall Schiller Productions, and his sound crew. The setup was more complicated this year than ever before. For Rosh Hashanah Ma'ariv and Kol Nidre, they ran wires and speakers to the extreme ends of the Unitarian Center so that we could seat people in other rooms and have them hear the sound from the main sanctuary.

We extend special thanks to Allan Gold and Gary Glasser, and Sue and Sonia Douglass, for so graciously hosting our sukkah celebrations in San Francisco and Albany.

More thanks go to: Ora Prochovnick, co-coordinator of ritual aspects for High Holidays and Assistant Chair of the Ritual Committee; Allen Brandstein and Jonathan Schwartz, our overall High Holiday coordinators; President Robin Leonard for patience and support; Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Rena Frantz, and Shirley Liberman for our oneg, kiddush and *hamotzi* arrangements, and for supplying enough holiday challot to feed the State of California; Jenny Heilbraun, Ben Schalit and Ellen Kugler for administrative support, patience, and guidance; House of Flowers for donating the floral arrangements in the sanctuary and oneg room; Dana Vinicoff, our tireless choral music director; Alex Ingersoll and David Stein for donating beautiful silver candlesticks for the holidays; Ron Lezell, Leila Raim and David Stein for extra dedication in ensuring that all shofar-blowing slots were filled; and Rabbi Kahn—advisor, teacher, and rabbi.

A few times during services, Rabbi Kahn reminded us that part of our High Holiday mission was to pray actively. I am inspired and moved by how seriously we take this mission. More and more each year, you, the congregation, preempt our service leaders and read, chant, or sing your own tunes for parts that the service leaders had planned to skip, read by themselves, or sing differently. No problem. Some day you all will have no excuse to turn down offers for leading services!

—Steve Greenberg, Chair
Ritual Committee

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anniversaries

- 13 Pamela Ruskin & Suzanne E. Shimek
- 19 Nanci Stern & Leslie Bergson
- 26 Marilyn Kalman & Marta Wohl
- 27 Cindy Icke & Diane Sabin
- 16 Marianne Camp & Ellen R. Gierson

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Volunteer Verse

Are you an active member
The kind that would be missed?
*Or do you grin, contently smile:
"My name is on the list"?*

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
*Or do you merely stay at home
And criticize and knock?*

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
*Or are you weakly satisfied
To be a "just-belong"?*

Do you voluntarily
Help the guiding stick?
*Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?*

Come out to meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
*Don't be a passive member
But take an active part.*

So think this over, reader,
You know a right from wrong.
*Are you an active member
Or do you just belong?*



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Progressive Agenda in Israel

During my Rosh Hashanah sermon, I mentioned two organizations which are actively advancing a progressive agenda in Israel: ARZA and the New Israel Fund. ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America), a branch of the Reform movement, is the primary voice for the American Reform community to communicate our concerns, support and mutual needs to the Israeli government and the Israeli people.

ARZA and its associated groups in the World Union for Progressive Judaism represent Reform Jews in the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and other forums. ARZA's leaders have repeatedly conveyed our concerns about the government's handling of the *intifadeh* to the highest levels of the Israeli government.

ARZA also lobbies and organizes in Israel and abroad on those issues which are of special concern to Reform Jews, such as the continuing effort to amend the Law of Return so as to exclude Reform and Conservative converts from its provisions. ARZA funds and sponsors the Israel Religious Action Center, the Israeli equivalent of the Reform movement's respected Religious Action Center in Jerusalem. One of the goals of the Religious Action Center is to secure equal funding and treatment for Reform synagogues and Reform-sponsored programs in Israel. The government-funded municipal Religious Councils are controlled by the Orthodox, who resist any official recognition of non-Orthodox rabbis, synagogues or schools. The Religious Action Center recently appealed to the Israel Supreme Court to intervene in two different matters: to halt publication of a government-funded directory of Jerusalem synagogues which omitted all the Reform congregations, and to require the government to license the establishment of a burial society which will conduct funerals and burials in accordance with Reform or Conservative practice. Other activities of the Israeli Reform movement include running six nursery schools throughout the country, an elementary school, a high school, a youth movement, synagogues in the major cities, Kibbutz Yahel, and a new free-enterprise settlement in the Galilee. For

more information about ARZA and ARZA membership, please contact the synagogue office.

The New Israel Fund was founded in the Bay Area in 1979 to help realize the ideals expressed in the nation's Declaration of Independence of a state "based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." The fund customarily makes small grants to grass-roots organizations involved in social change and social justice. Grant recipients of the New Israel Fund range across the spectrum of Israeli society—from domestic violence, to the special problems of large families, to innovative programs of Arab-Jewish cooperation. The fund helped get Israel's first battered women's shelters established and has provided seed money for many other small but important projects which cannot expect help from the government or the UJA. The fund has acted as a fiscal agent for the Israeli AIDS Task Force, accepting donations directed to this important *tzedakah*. The NIF also sponsors Shatil, a program which provides support services and consultation to small non-profit agencies in Israel, whether or not they receive grants from the fund. The fund is a supporter of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the Arab-Jewish village profiled by Mark Freeman in the June *Forward*. Miriam Goodman is the Bay Area representative of the New Israel Fund; contact her at 220 Montgomery St., #415, San Francisco, 94104, or at 421-1614.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Copies of the rabbi's High Holiday sermons, "The Survivor's Trap" (about Israel) and "Prayer," are available from the synagogue office.

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Gay and Lesbian Israelis

The Society for Protection of Personal Rights in Israel ("SPPR" or "Aguda") was founded in the mid-1970s as Israel's first and only gay/lesbian organization. It educates the Israeli public through speakers bureaus, media and political contacts, and by providing social activities for outreach to gays and lesbians.

A critical joint fundraising project has begun for the Aguda and for Israel's only gay/lesbian magazine, *Magaim*, whose survival is in jeopardy. This nine-month-old publication is suffering from advertising and distribution problems due to anti-gay bias. However, with current interest expressed by a major Israeli magazine distributor—if *Magaim* can show staying power for a few more issues—there is the potential for a great future.

The Aguda, recognizing the strong, positive impact the magazine has had in improving the self-image of Israeli gays and lesbians, recently sent Mark Ariel, the editor of *Magaim*, to the United States on a fundraising and education mission. A portion of the funds he raises is shared with the Aguda. Sha'ar Zahav members recently had the opportunity to meet with Mark at Shabbat services and to review the high-quality publication. While to date all articles have been in Hebrew, succeeding issues (the next will carry AIDS-related articles) will include several pages translated into English. Perhaps some of the very interesting personals will also be translated!

U.S. subscriptions cost \$75 per year for 12 issues or \$40 for six issues for six months:

Magaim
P.O. Box 11990
Tel Aviv, Israel 61116

Kaiser Brunch Oneg

The oneg on November 4 is sponsored by the Bikkur Cholim Committee in honor of the Kaiser brunch volunteers on the first anniversary of the Kaiser brunch program. Frank Alvarez, Director of Administrative Services at Kaiser, will make a presentation in appreciation of the congregation and its volunteers.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		21 Cheshvan 1 7:30pm Hebrew class 8:45pm Jewish Spirituality	22 2 7:30pm Israel Discussion Series	23 3 6:30pm Membership 731-9271 7:30pm Long Range Planning	24 4 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:15pm Services	25 5 9am Kadimah
26 6 10am Kadimah meeting 4pm Ensemble	27 7 7:30pm Women's Chavurah Workshop	28 8 7:30pm Hebrew class 8:45pm Jewish Spirituality	29 9 11:30am Soviet Vigil 7:30pm Israel discussion series	1 Kislev 10 Rosh Chodesh	2 11 8:15pm Services	3 12 9am Kadimah
4 13 4pm Ensemble 4pm Fireside Chat with Robin & Eric, 53 Digby St.	5 14 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Va'ad	6 15 7:30pm Hebrew class 8:45pm Jewish spirituality	7 16 7:15pm Newsletter, 3676 17th St.	8 17 7pm Building 7:30pm Social Action 7:30pm Bikkur Cholim	9 18 8:15pm Services	10 19 9am Kadimah 9am "December Dilemma" parents program
11 20 4pm Ensemble	12 21 7pm Ritual Comm. mailing party	13 22	14 23	15 24 Office closed	16 25 8:15pm Services	17 26 10:30am Services
18 27 10:30am Kaiser Brunch 4pm Ensemble	19 28	20 29 7pm Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr.	21 30			

Ritual Calendar

Friday, November 4

Parshat Chayei Sarah
6:15 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Daniel Chesir
8:15 pm, Late Service
Ora Prochovnick and David Stein

Friday, November 11

Parshat Toledot
8:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Leslie Bergson

Friday, November 18

Parshat Vayeitzei
8:15 pm
Tiela Chalmers and Steve Greenberg
The Torah will be read.

Friday, November 25

Parshat Vayishlach
8:15 pm
Bill Schlichter and Jose Luis Moscovich
Sermon by Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Saturday, November 26

10:30 am, Morning Service
Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Bill Schlichter

Friday, December 2

Parshat Vayeishev
6:15 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat
Dana Vinicoff and David Stein
8:15 pm, Late Service
Mike Rankin and Bill Ashley-Dobbin

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- 1 Steven M. Polsky
- 3 Jordan Imani Hauer-Laurencin
- 4 Mark Reisman
- 5 Sasha T.
- 5 Frank M.
- 6 Deborah Lieberman
- 7 Steve Greenberg
- 9 Neil Sechan
- 9 Arthur Reichstadt
- 13 Bobby Harris
- 14 Jonathan Goldman
- 20 Ali Cannon
- 22 John Everett Hanely
- 23 Randall Schiller
- 23 Arlene Hoffman
- 26 Allan Blumenfeld
- 26 Cheri A. Pies
- 27 Laura Weil
- 28 Beatrice Lieberman
- 29 Harold Podgur
- 29 Mark B. Vogel

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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Steve Elman & Tom Holt, in honor of their new home

Lillian and Gerard Landsberger, in memory of Mark Landsberger

Zelda & Oscar Blechman, in honor of Howard's becoming co-chair of the Newsletter Committee

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Muriel W. Ponzecchi, in memory of Michael John

Steve Elman, wishing Allan Berenstein and Aaron Cooper a speedy recovery

Paul Cohen, in memory of Sam Greenberg

Building Fund

Steve Elman, in honor of Phil Charney's new home, and Mark Mendelow and Dennis Moribe's new home.

Jonathan Schwartz, in memory of Vita Schwartz

Education Fund

Ellyn Bloomfield, in memory of Cheryl Orvis, in honor of Marc Lipschutz, of Ann Biderman's work with the Women's Chavurah, and of Jose Luis Moscovich and Nathan Robinson

General Fund

Bernard Pechter, in honor of Gwen Davis and Happy New Year to Michele Maier

Phyllis and Howard Mackler, in honor of Mark Mackler and Ingu Yun's new home

Steve Elman, in honor of Jason Carls becoming Bar Mitzvah, in appreciation of Aunt Yente, and in appreciation of Edward Pollack

Barak Gale

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in honor of Enoch Harrison

Ellen Elias, in honor of Bruce Katz's new home

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in memory of Fannie and Albert Stein

Richard Inlander, in honor of Rick Walenta's marriage

Alex Ingersoll & David Stein, in honor of Allen Berenstein's renewed mobility

Richard Inlander, in honor of Aaron Cooper

Prayerbook Fund

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold, in honor of Ritual Committee Chair Steve Greenberg and Assistant Chair Ora Prochovnick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Tom Yazman, in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus

David Delroy, in memory of his mother, Rose Delroy

David Delroy, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn

Shelley Montgomery, in honor of Cheryl Price's continuing recovery

Sanctuary Fund

Roy Bateman

December Dilemma

Chanukah and Christmas create the "December Dilemma" every year. How do we explain to our children Santa Claus, mangers and trees? How do we keep our observance of Chanukah authentically Jewish and not a poor substitute for the holiday we are *not* observing? How do you observe either holiday when the parents are from different religious backgrounds? All parents and other interested CSZ members and friends are invited to join Lisa Bennet (UAHC Outreach Coordinator), Rabbi Kahn and a panel of parents in discussing feelings about—and strategies for—the December Dilemma on Shabbat morning, November 19 while Kadimah is in session. Bagels and coffee will be served at 9 am; the program will begin promptly at 9:30 and conclude at 10:30. For more information, call Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue.

Liturgy of Healing

A liturgy of healing will take place on Saturday, November 12 at 4 pm at the synagogue. Everyone is welcome. Call Rabbi Kahn for more information.

Classified Ads

CORRESPONDENT WANTED: Australian Jewish gay man, living far from any Jewish community, seeks correspondents. Write: Ray Israel, P.O. Box 50, Tinana, Queensland, Australia 4650.

Do you have sales ability you're itching to use? The *Gaily Forward* is looking for people to sell advertising space in the newsletter. If you're interested, call Rick Wilson, advertising coordinator, at 647-3258.

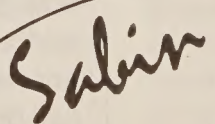


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Annual Blood Drive

The Women's Chavurah of Sha'ar Zahav sponsored our annual blood drive this past September 17 at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank. According to our Irwin Center staff contact person, they are in the midst of a blood shortage. Usage in the area is up over 30%—over 10,000 units of blood are needed each month to serve 41 area hospitals.



Photo by Amy Blasenheim

The blood we donate at our annual drive, as well as blood donated into our account by individuals during the year, is put into a special Sha'ar Zahav account. This blood is there to be used by Sha'ar Zahav members when needed! What is not used by congregation members is donated to others in need during the year. Please contact the office if you or a member of the congregation are in need of blood.

Non-members as well as members of Sha'ar Zahav came to contribute. Some donated blood, others helped by coordinating appointments, staffing our reception table, and providing Walkmans and cassettes for the listening pleasure of the donors. Men of Sha'ar Zahav provided a lovely canteen with juices, noshes, and caring support to replenish the strength of those who had donated blood. A special thanks to Accent on Flowers on 24th Street in Noe Valley for their generous donation of beautiful red roses for each donor. And many thanks to all who helped!

—Ann Biderman,
Women's Chavurah Chair

September Va'ad Report

President Robin Leonard opened the meeting by informing us of the recent Va'ad resignations of Alex Ingersoll, recorder, and Garry Koenigsberg, member. The Va'ad then elected Ellen Kugler as recorder (in acting capacity until the May congregational meeting) and Bill Goldstein as a member.

Rabbi Kahn announced the selection of two teachers for Kadimah—Steve Grolnic and Phyllis Mintzer. Both are experienced teachers and come highly recommended. Ten students have registered thus far, five in each grade.

Ben Schalit distributed his treasurer's report, noting that we have received 178 dues pledges thus far and that High Holy Day contributions are still arriving. Ben noted that we will no longer be able to accept credit-card charges for payment due to the high cost of maintaining this service. Our president suggested that we consider alternatives to passing pushke baskets each week. The Va'ad decided to utilize the wood collection box prior to and following services, on an experimental basis.

Committee reports included information on the upcoming Chanukah party, clarification on the funding for our monthly Kaiser brunches for AIDS patients and their families, reports about the women's dance and the women's blood drive, and acceptance of two families and four individuals for membership. Jonathan Mesinger, Social Action chair, reported on the planning of an October event on AIDS activism. The Va'ad issued the following statement: "The Board of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav opposes the passage of Proposition 102 and encourages its Social Action Committee, its rabbi and its members as

individuals to communicate this opposition to the community at large."

Richard Inlander presented the Va'ad with a proposal to move ahead in contracting for cemetery space with Sherith Israel, thus creating a Congregation Sha'ar Zahav section at the Hills of Eternity Memorial Park in Colma. The Va'ad voted to have our president sign this agreement. Information will soon be available.

The Va'ad retired into closed session to review current staffing and personnel issues.

October Report

President Robin Leonard thanked the congregation for the recent donation of \$500 to Project Open Hand. Treasurer Ben Schalit reviewed the current financial statement, and two individuals and one family were approved for membership.

In light of last month's statement opposing Proposition 102, Jonathan Mesinger, Social Action chair, requested that the Va'ad take a similar stand in response to Proposition 96. The Va'ad adopted the following statement: "The Board of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav opposes the passage of Proposition 96 and encourages its Social Action Committee, its rabbi and its members as individuals to communicate this opposition to the community at large."

The November Va'ad meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Monday, November 14. Va'ad meetings are open to anyone interested in attending. Please consider this your invitation.

—Ellen Kugler, Recorder

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San Francisco

A Thank You

While reading the September 1988 issue of the *Forward* (picked up at Rosh Hashanah services), I came to the Aunt Yente column. Upon reading the question posed this month, I began to feel like an outsider, not wanted by the High Holiday celebrant "Annoyed on Anza." I want to thank Aunt Yente for responding in such a warm and inclusive manner; it reaffirmed my own assumption that of course we as Jews will welcome outsiders, strangers if you will, to our celebrations.

I am from out of town and I want to thank the people of Sha'ar Zahav for providing room for me and others like me: lesbians and gay men who felt welcomed, non-temple members who felt most comfortable celebrating with the Congregation of Sha'ar Zahav.

Had I not been able to attend Rosh Hashanah services with you, I would of course have been with members of my own local New Jewish Agenda group. But you actively welcomed me and I was very excited to sit in the sanctuary with so many other lesbian and gay Jews: open, joyous, and proud to be Jews preparing for another year of work and struggle, peaceful times and restful times.

Thank you to Aunt Yente for provoking me enough to finally write. Thank you CSZ for welcoming us non-congregation members to services.

—J.H.B., Santa Cruz

Oneg Sponsors

During September onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 16 Sanford Friedman and Jerry Hipps, in honor of their 14th anniversary
- 23 Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Dan Bellm, in honor of Dan's mother's visit
- 30 Jose Luis Moscovich and Nathan Robinson, in honor of their second anniversary

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Library Notes

For most of us, a library means books. Upon further consideration, however, we all realize that a library is a reflection of our way of life—our past, our present and our hopes for the future.

Sha'ar Zahav's library reflects our way of life in a variety of ways. In addition to its nearly 300 volumes and tapes, our library maintains subscriptions to a number of periodicals. *Commentary*, *Moment*, *Midstream* and *Judaism* are national magazines which are held for a year. Subscriptions to the *Jewish Women's Newsletter*, the *Jerusalem Post* and the *Jewish Bulletin* are also maintained.

The most complete statement of Sha'ar Zahav as a congregation is our collection of *Gaily Forwards* that date back to the beginning. Now, due to the generosity of Sam Thal, our library has a pictorial history of Sha'ar Zahav. A slide collection that reaches back to 1980 will be available for use soon—many thanks are due to Sam for his marvelous gift.

This picture would not be complete without mention of our sibling congregations' newsletters, the video tapes, the photograph albums, and the collection of Israel information pamphlets. Just a reminder: All members should now have membership cards, which are used as your library card.

—Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Chair
Library Committee

A Farewell Letter to Aunt Yente

My dear, dear Yente,

I read with great sadness your words of goodbye in the October *Forward*. We will miss your wisdom, your wit, your joyous celebration of your Jewishness and your womanhood, your recipes—which on the whole were not bad for a Litvak. A bit more schmaltz than we used in Galicia of course, but I write to thank and praise, not to critique. Your brisket and knaidlach are yours, not mine. But maybe in the brisket just a bit less salt? Enough.

Dear Yente, you say that you may go to an ashram in Katmandu, or to Miami Beach. If you go to Katmandu, go as a Jew. There are hungry children in Nepal. Feed them.

And if you go to Miami Beach, also go as a Jew. For many of the elderly, retirement has meant not peace of mind but loneliness. Reach out to them. Mend their world.

Knowing you, this advice is superfluous. Please take it with a grain of salt. But not as much salt as in your brisket! Oy.

Darling, you will be missed. Enjoy your sabbatical. Rest.

But listen, you've been gone a month already. You couldn't have sent at least a post card? This is asking too much? It's all right. Until one comes, your kinderlach will sit in the dark and read the *Chronicle*. Definitely the best way.

Be well, liebchen.

—One of the Kinderlach

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To **Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** on the loss of our members, David Pierce and Gershon Lieberman.

To **Deborah and Beatrice Lieberman** on the death of their father, Gershon Lieberman, and to **Maayan Lieberman** on the death of her grandfather.

Music

Members Jose Luis Moscovich and Jonathan Schwartz will play a program of music for clarinet and piano in a relaxed and informal setting at the Jewish Community Library on Sunday, November 13 at 5 pm, 601 14th Ave. (at Balboa). Admission is \$5; \$3 for Friends of the Library.

Yahrzeits

- 1 (Cheshvan 21) Mary Goldman, grandmother of Jonathan Goldman
- 2 Marc Wagner, friend of Johanna Johnson
- 3 Hans Meyer, father of Eve Meyer
- 4 William Mantey, grandfather of Bill Schlichter
- 4 Isidor Paker, father of Perry Paker
- 6 Irene Sherwin, grandmother of Rob Tat
- 6 Rosalyn Shefrin Greenwald, mother of Susan Greenwald
- 7 Roy Spaugh, grandfather of Diane Spaugh
- 7 Pearl Taitelbaum, grandmother of Yael Silverberg-Willis
- 7 Anna Gold, grandmother of Allan Gold
- 8 Charlie Martin Dobkins Sr., father of Jim Dobkins
- 8 Dina Raven, grandmother of Allyce Kimerling
- 9 Joseph Goldstein, father of Bill Goldstein
- 9 Ruth Wishner, sister of David Shaber
- 10 Herman Wohl, father of Marilyn Kalman's lover
- 12 (Kislev 3) Nathan Handman, grandfather of Jonathan Schwartz
- 13 Marion Zimmermann, aunt of Sue and Sonia Douglass
- 13 (Kislev 4) Morris Schwartz, father of Jonathan Schwartz
- 15 Leatrice Billig, friend of Robin Leonard
- 15 Leah Saslafsky, grandmother of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 17 Allan Kimerling, brother of Allyce Kimerling
- 17 (Kislev 8) Estelle Weisman, mother of Mark Weisman
- 19 (Kislev 10) Lottie Goldfinger, grandmother of Neil Hart
- 20 (Kislev 11) Frank Chesir, father of Daniel Chesir
- 21 Joseph Kupferman, father of Martin Kupferman
- 22 (Kislev 13) Ben Rudman, uncle of Rick Crane
- 23 Nathan Thal, brother of Sam Thal
- 24 Louis J. Nutes, grandfather of



Dancing in the New Year at this year's Taste of Honey Dance. Photo by Amy Blasenheim

- Barry Siegel
- 24 Esther Kalis, mother of Betty Kalis
- 24 Samuel Dunn, grandfather of Eileen Dunn
- 25 Anna Hart, grandmother of Neil Hart
- 27 (Kislev 18) Jacob Koshover, grandfather of Sherie Ann Koshover
- 28 Alvin Baum Sr., father of Alvin Baum Jr.

Note: Yahrzeits are read on the Friday preceding the date.

MEMBERSHIP
Check it out.
Besides the benefits
it feels good to be
a member.

Fireside Chat—Revisited

Continuing in the Sha'ar Zahav tradition (this is the second time we're doing this, so it qualifies!), President Robin Leonard and Vice-President Eric Keitel cordially invite all members of the congregation to an afternoon tea and cookies schmoozing session on Sunday, November 13 from 4 to 6 pm at Eric's home at 53 Digby St., Diamond Heights, San Francisco.

Here is an opportunity for any member who would like to discuss any aspect of congregational life with the two of us or to offer us any advice, criticism, praise or other wise words, so that we can continue to lead the synagogue forward in a manner that allows each member's voice to be heard and all of our lives enriched by the work of our congregation.

If you need directions to Eric's house, call him at 239-8180. We hope that we will see many of you there, and we even promise to come through with a blazing hearth to help set the right cozy mood.

—Robin and Eric

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Robin Leonard
Vice President, Eric Keitel
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Acting Recorder, Ellen Kugler

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Don Albert
Allan Berenstein
Tiela Chalmers
Bill Goldstein
Steve Greenberg
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alita Rosenfeld
Jonathan Schwartz
Dana Vinicoff
Richard Inlander (ex officio)

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Education, by committee
Finance, Don Albert
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Past Presidents Council, Leila Raim
Personnel, Irene Ogus
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Religious School, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Ritual, Steve Greenberg; assistant, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
Social Program, by committee
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Leticia Montealegre

Office Hours: Mon. 9–5; Tue. 1–5; Wed. 10–6; Thu. 9–5; Fri. 11–5.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

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On November 9, 1938, NAZI Germany initiated the systematic destruction of more than a thousand years of Jewish civilization in Europe. On that night, hundreds of synagogues were burned, more than half of all Jewish theological seminaries in Germany were destroyed, and the windows of Jewish-owned shops all over the land were shattered.

This infamous night came to be known as

KRISTALLNACHT

(the night of the broken glass)

On Wednesday, November 9, 1988

Sha'ar Zahav will be adhering to the community-wide

50th Anniversary COMMEMORATION

of those tragic events

Starting at 8:30 p.m. the program will feature:

- o a commemorative exhibit
- o a talk with Holocaust survivors,
- o German Jewish music and songs of the period,
- o reading of commemorative writings

followed by a discussion of the underlying issues of Kristallnacht, and their relevance to our own lives in 1988 America.

Our synagogue, like many others in the country, will be open that night, in a vigil intended to symbolize the continuing vitality of the Jewish community.

PLAN TO COME AND JOIN US
on that night of remembrance !

For more information, please contact:

José Luis Moscovich, at (415) 864-5331

